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IN VACATION.

Is "Possum" a Subject of Larceny?—The only tribunal which could properly pass upon this important question has decided that it is not, and this tribunal was a colored church in that portion of the Lord's vineyard which borders upon the Chesapeake Bay. We will not further designate the spot. Sometime during last March the Commonwealth's Attorney of this favored County from whom we have received the facts stated, received the following letter from a Justice of the Peace. We omit the names for obvious reason:

"Mr. ———, Attorney for the Commonwealth, ——— Court House. Dear Sir: I have a warrant issued against one James Johnson, colored, for stealing an opossum from Isaac Bones, colored, value of said possum .25 cents. The defendant and his friends have employed Mr. John Jones to defend him. I want you to be present for the prosecution, which is willing to put up your \$5.00 if you can be there, and take their chances of conviction. Will you come up on the 21st day of March at ———, Virginia. If you cannot come please write me, so the parties may employ other council. This is a church dispute stewed down to an opossum."

Before the magistrate could hear the case the said church, of which both the prosecuting witness and the defendant were leading members, took jurisdiction of this case and had at least three trials, deacons being appointed to defend and prosecute. In each trial the defendant was acquitted, the brethren being of the opinion that a possum was not a subject of larceny, whether on the ground that it was *feræ naturæ* or not does not appear. The prosecutor was so much discouraged at the decision from the hands of the expert church that he dropped the prosecution before the Justice of the Peace. That the church erred in its decision is insisted on the ground that at the very time the possum was served upon the table of the accused the prosecutor was his guest and did full justice to the feast set before him, not knowing, however, at that time that this delicacy of the White House was one that he, the prosecutor, had captured and fattened for his own table. This was certainly seething the prosecutor in his own grease.

The attention of the junior members of the bar is respectfully called to this case, because there is no telling when a similar one may arise and the matter is one deserving of long and careful study.